(1414)

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
79 STATE 311003
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED
PAGE 01 STATE 311003
ORIGIN ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SCS-06 CA-01 FBIE-00 L-03
/028 R
DRAFTED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL:MG
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL
------------------079216 0917582 /43

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/LC
DATE
REVIEWED BY
RDS DR NDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH REASON(S)
DENIAL/RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS
RELEASABLE
DELETE
EA 3.4 FOI EXEMPTIONS

O 0917472 DEC 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
UNCLAS STATE 311003
E.O.112065 N/A
TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO) GY
SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ENTITLED "GUYANA SAYS IT BELATEDLY RECEIVED TAPE OF THE JONES CULTISTS DYING"
FOLLOWING IS TEXT NEW YORK TIMES DECEMBER 9 STORY BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK:
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, DECEMBER 8 -- A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT GIVEN A COPY OF A TAPE RECORDING OF THE DEATH SCENE AT JONESTOWN, FOUND BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, UNTIL LAST WEDNESDAY, NEARLY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE MASS DEATHS AT THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE COMMUNE.
JACK GALINAS, A DIRECTOR OF A NEW YORK PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WHO REPRESENTS THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, CONFIRMED THAT SUCH A TAPE HAD BEEN FOUND AT JONESTOWN AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE TAPE WAS DISCOVERED BY A MEMBER OF THE CONSULATE STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE.
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED
PAGE 02 STATE 311003
OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WHO HAVE LISTENED TO THE TAPE SAID IT APPEARED TO BE SCRATCHY AND PARTS OF IT WERE NOT CLEAR.
AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, USING SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, HAVE APPARENTLY MADE A TRANSCRIPT OF THE CASSETTE-STYLE TAPE AND SUPPLIED IT TO THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT.
ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, IT IS NOT CLEAR WEETHER THE HOUR-LONG TAPE RECORDING IS THE FINAL HOUR OF THE MASS DEATHS OR SIMPLY A PORTION COVERED BY THE RECORDING MACHINE.
SHRIEKS AND GUNSHOTS
CHILDREN'S SHRIEKS CAN BE HEARD ON THE TAPE RECORDING, SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAID, AND GUNSHOTS CAN BE HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND.
WORD THAT TAPE RECORDINGS HAD BEEN RECOVERED RESULTED IN NEW GROUPS OF REPORTERS ARRIVING IN THIS HUMID FORMER BRITISH COLONY AND STRONG DEMANDS BEING PLACED ON THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CONTENTS PUBLIC.
UNCLASSIFIED

BUT GUYANESE OFFICIALS SAID THAT, BECAUSE THE TAPE HAD BEEN RECOVERED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A COPY BELATEDLY, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD MAKE THE TRANSCRIPT PUBLIC.

BOTH GUYANESE AND AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT THE TAPE MIGHT BE USED AS EVIDENCE IF A PROSECUTION WAS CONSIDERED AGAINST PERSONS WHO COMPELLED THE SUICIDES BY DRINKING A SOFT DRINK MIXED WITH POISON OR WHO KILLED THE CHILDREN.
AMERICAN SOURCES REPORTED THAT THERE WERE WORDS ON THE TAPE THAT INSTRUCTED THE MOTHERS TO SHOOT THE POISON DEEP INTO THE THROATS OF THE CHILDREN, PRESUMABLY USING THE SYRINGES THAT WERE FOUND LITTERING THE PAVILION IN JONESTOWN, WHERE MOST OF THE 900 CULT MEMBERS DIED.
SURVIVORS OF THE JONESTOWN KILLINGS AND SUICIDES SAY THAT THE REV. JIM JONES, THE CULT'S LEADER, WAS METICULOUS IN RECORDING ALL OF HIS ACIVITIES, EITHER ON TAPE OR ON PAPER.
"EVERYTHING HE SAID PRACTICALLY WAS PUT ON TAPE UNLESS HE SAID NO, AND THE ONLY TIME HE SAID NO WAS WHEN SOMETHING WAS REALLY INSIGNIFICANT," SAID MICHAEL CARTER, A 20-YEAR-OLD FORMER RADIO OPERATOR IN JONESTOWN.
"A LOT OF STUFF HAD BEEN ERASED," HE ADDED, "BUT NOTHING IMPORTANT. I KNOW THAT FOR A FACT. THOSE TAPES CAN GIVE A LOT OF INSIGHT TO JONESTOWN." ONE GUYANESE POLICE OFFICIAL SAID IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS TO LISTEN TO ALL THE TAPES THAT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. CHRISTOPHER